



Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/article/smarter-healthier-wealthier-helping-rural-cambodians-live-better-lives>

Smarter, Healthier, Wealthier: Helping Rural Cambodians Live Better Lives

Soon after I arrived in [Cambodia](#), I made a trip to see a few of the activities that USAID supports to improve the lives of rural Cambodians. Agriculture—especially rice—is of huge importance to Cambodia and I was able to see how our support is helping farmers become more successful by introducing new techniques. I also saw how our funds are improving Cambodian children's education by strengthening school facilities and increasing their knowledge about nutrition.

Not far from Cambodia's most famous landmark, Angkor Wat, farmers in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom provinces are learning about better, more efficient ways to raise fish and grow crops and vegetables. In addition to the training and supplies they receive through our food security program, USAID HARVEST, rural families are also eating better as a result of the nutritional information provided by HARVEST's trainers.

The bottom line is that their production is allowing farmers to earn more income and provide their families with a more diverse and nutritional food basket. Greg Beck, USAID's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Bureau, saw this when he enjoyed personal interaction with one such farmer during his visit this year. Read about his reflections on his Cambodia visit [here](#).

[Nutrition](#) is a very important priority for me and my team, as it continues to be one of Cambodia's main development challenges.

Studies show that too many Cambodians suffer from malnutrition. That's why USAID's program (Improving Basic Education in Cambodia) not only focuses on the classroom, but in the vegetable garden, too. In addition to providing computer labs, the project also teaches students about nutrition, [water and sanitation](#) by teaching them to install and maintain a vegetable garden. They also learn about the importance of protein and how important fish is to their protein requirements. These valuable nutritional resources will help school children eat right, grow strong and eventually join Cambodia's growing workforce.

This post originally [appeared](#) on the USAID blog. USAID HARVEST is part of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative.